

Amendments to the Claims:

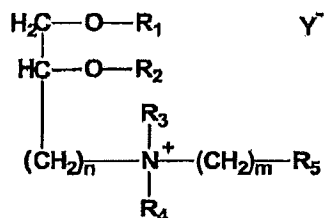
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-67 (Canceled).

68. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering an anionic molecule into a cell, comprising:

(a) forming a lipid complex by contacting the anionic molecule with a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to the formula:

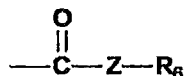


wherein R_1 and R_2 are identical and are selected from the group consisting of $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{29}$ and $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{25}$ independently H; linear or branched, unsubstituted or substituted C_{1-23} -alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, or heteroalkyl group having from 0 to 6 sites of unsaturation; or a cyclic or aryl group, said heteroalkyl, cyclic, and aryl groups comprising from 0 to 5 heteroatoms wherein said heteroatoms are not the first atoms in said groups, wherein the substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{CH}_2)_k-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{S}-(\text{CH}_2)_k-\text{CH}_3$, and $\text{X}-(\text{CH}_2)_k$, wherein X is a halide, and k is 0 to 4;

R_3 and R_4 are independently H; linear or branched, unsubstituted or substituted C_{1-23} alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, or heteroalkyl group having from 0 to 6 sites of unsaturation; or a cyclic or aryl group, said heteroalkyl, cyclic, and aryl groups comprising from 0 to 5 heteroatoms wherein said heteroatoms are not the first atoms in said groups, wherein the substituent groups are

selected from the group consisting of $[-O-(CH_2)_k-CH_3]$, $-O-(CH_2)_k-CH_3$, $-S-(CH_2)_k-CH_3$, and $X-(CH_2)_k-$, wherein X is a halide, and k is 0 to 4;

R_5 has the structure



wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of O, S, NR_1 , NH, ~~[[and S]]~~ and Se;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of H, $[[R_1, R_2,]]$ R_3 , and R_4 , and, when Z is O, NH, NR_1 , or S, R_6 can further be an amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent, wherein Z is an atom of said amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent;

n is 1 to 6;

m is 1 to 10;

Y is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion; and

~~R_7 and R_8 independently or in combination are H or alkyl groups as defined for R_1 and R_2 ;~~

wherein if Z is O, n is 1, and m is 3, then R_6 is selected from the group defined for R_3 and R_4 and ~~wherein R_1 and R_2 are not both H;~~ and

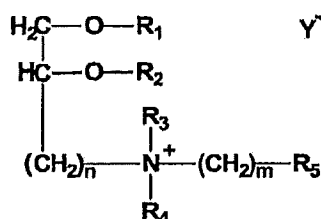
(b) contacting a cell with the lipid complex formed in step (a);

whereby a biologically effective amount of the anionic molecule is delivered into the cell~~[[;]] and wherein R_1 and R_2 are identical and are selected from the group consisting of $C_{14}H_{29}$ and $C_{12}H_{25}$.~~

Claims 69-70 (Canceled).

71. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering an anionic molecule into a cell, comprising:

(a) forming a lipid complex by contacting the anionic molecule with a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to the formula:

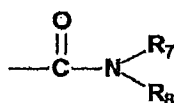


wherein

R₁ and R₂ are identical and are selected from the group consisting of C₁₄H₂₉ and C₁₂H₂₅ saturated or unsaturated C₁₀-C₁₈-alkyl groups;

R₃ and R₄ are independently H; linear or branched, unsubstituted or substituted C₁₋₂₃ alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, or heteroalkyl group having from 0 to 6 sites of unsaturation; or a cyclic or aryl group, said heteroalkyl, cyclic, and aryl groups comprising from 0 to 5 heteroatoms wherein said heteroatoms are not the first atoms in said groups, wherein the substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-(CH₂)_k-CH₃, [[-O-(CH₂)_k-CH₃,]] -S-(CH₂)_k-CH₃, and X-(CH₂)_k-, wherein X is a halide, and k is 0 to 4;

R₅ has the structure:



R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from the group defined for [[R₁, R₂,]] R₃ and R₄ and one of R₇ and R₈ can further be an amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent, wherein an amino nitrogen of said amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent is the N to which R₇ or R₈ is attached;

n is 1 to 6;

m is 1 to 10; and

Y is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion; and

(b) contacting a cell with the lipid complex formed in step (a);

whereby a biologically effective amount of the anionic molecule is delivered into the cell.

72. (Canceled).

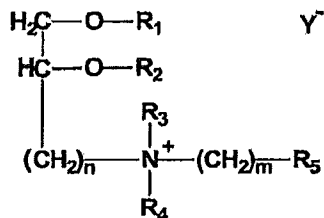
73. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 71 [[72]], wherein R₃ and R₄ are selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₅ alkyl groups and C₁-C₅ heteroalkyl groups having one heteroatom therein.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 73, wherein R₃ and R₄ are methyl groups.

Claims 75-84 (Canceled).

85. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering an anionic molecule into a cell, comprising:

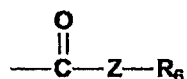
(a) forming a lipid complex by contacting the anionic molecule with a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to the formula:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently H; linear or branched, unsubstituted or substituted C₁₋₂₃ alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, or heteroalkyl group having from 0 to 6 sites of unsaturation; or a cyclic or aryl group, said heteroalkyl, cyclic, and aryl groups comprising from 0 to 5 heteroatoms wherein said heteroatoms are not the first atoms in said groups, wherein the substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-(CH₂)_k-CH₃, [[-O-(CH₂)_k-CH₃,]] -S-(CH₂)_k-CH₃, and X-(CH₂)_k-, wherein X is a halide, and k is 0 to 4;

R₃ and R₄ are independently H; linear or branched, unsubstituted or substituted C₁₋₂₃ alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, or heteroalkyl group having from 0 to 6 sites of unsaturation; or a cyclic or aryl group, said heteroalkyl, cyclic, and aryl groups comprising from 0 to 5 heteroatoms wherein said heteroatoms are not the first atoms in said groups, wherein the substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of $\text{-O-(CH}_2\text{)}_k\text{-CH}_3$, $\text{[[-O-(CH}_2\text{)}_k\text{-CH}_3\text{,]] -S-(CH}_2\text{)}_k\text{-CH}_3$, and $\text{X-(CH}_2\text{)}_k\text{-}$, wherein X is a halide, and k is 0 to 4;

R₅ has the structure



wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of [[O, S,]] NR_1 , and NH [[, and S]] ;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of H, R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄, and, ~~when Z is O, NH,~~
~~NR₁, or S,~~ R₆ can further be an amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent, wherein Z is an atom of said amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent;

n is 1 to 6;

m is 1 to 10;

Y is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion; and

~~R₇ and R₈ independently or in combination are H or alkyl groups as defined for R₁ and R₂;~~

~~wherein if Z is O, n is 1, and m is 3, then R₆ is selected from the group defined for R₃ and R₄ and wherein R₁ and R₂ are not both H; and~~

(b) contacting a cell with the lipid complex formed in step (a);

whereby a biologically effective amount of the anionic molecule is delivered into the cell [[:]] ~~and wherein Z is NH or NR₁.~~

86. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering an anionic molecule into a cell, comprising:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{H}_2\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{R}_1 \\
 | \\
 \text{HC}-\text{O}-\text{R}_2 \\
 | \\
 (\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{N}^+-\text{R}_4-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{R}_5 \\
 | \\
 \text{R}_3
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{Y}^-$$
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ || \\ \text{---C---Z---R}_6 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---C---Z---R}_6 \\ || \\ \text{O} \end{array}$$

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of H, R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄, and, when Z is O, NH, NR₁, or S, R₆ can further be an amino acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent, wherein Z is an atom of said amino

~~acid, peptide, polypeptide, protein, mono-, di- or polysaccharide, or other bioactive or pharmaceutical agent;~~

~~n is 1 to 6;~~

~~m is 1 to 10;~~

~~Y is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion; and~~

~~R₇ and R₈ independently or in combination are H or alkyl groups as defined for R₁ and R₂;~~

~~wherein if Z is O, n is 1, and m is 3, then R₆ is selected from the group defined for R₃ and R₄ and wherein R₁ and R₂ are not both H; and~~

(b) contacting a cell with the lipid complex formed in step (a);

whereby a biologically effective amount of the anionic molecule is delivered into the cell; and wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of DORIE carboxylate (dioleoyl Rosenthal Inhibitor Ether carboxylate), DMRIE carboxylate (dimyristyl Rosenthal Inhibitor Ether carboxylate), DMRIE carboxylate propyl amide, DMRIE carboxylate (methionine-methylester) amide, DMRIE carboxylate (~~methionine~~ (methionine-leucine-methylester) amide, and DMRIE carboxylate (methionine-leucine-phenylalanine-methylester) amide.

87. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 71, wherein R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from the group defined for [[R₁, R₂,]] R₃, and R₄.

Claims 88-90 (Canceled).